The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

Oct/Nov 2011 Volume 7, Issue 10 Copyright RCT

# From The Editor...

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Well hello again fellow club members…

Late as usual!
This is the long awaited elections issue. Originally we had thought that there would be massive amounts of information to print concerning the club elections. There was anticipation in the air and we (the Barkie staff), waited and waited and waited…

But there was no influx of information. Neither was there a line waiting with people eager to sign up for a much-coveted position as an RCT Officer. Going begging were the three board seats and the vice-president.

As hard as it is to believe, it appears that many in the club have little or no interest in how things are done around here. During my tenure on the BOD and now as club President, I really appreciate how hard it is to motivate people to get involved. I also very much appreciate those who do step forward to do stuff around here.

…And there's always a lot of stuff to do.

So if you are one of the "silent majority" out there, thanks for your support, but on the other hand, if things don't go as you think they should, you have no one to blame but yourself!

So… get involved! Volunteer for something! I would like to begin our club "Elmer" program again to assist some folks with questions on all subjects relating to Amateur radio operation. The "Elmer" board used to hang in the clubhouse and will again soon.

So if you want to help, there's a project you could begin thinking about.

The club house is also going to be going through some new renovations. We are re-doing the "Lou Simmons" room to make it more usable. There's another good project to get involved in.

Lastly, I've been thinking that it is time for me to pass on the "Loggers Bark" to someone else. I've been fairly busy lately and the "Bark" has suffered as a result. If any of you would be interested, please let me know, and we'll talk..

73 Gary WG7X

**5 October 2011**

The 5 October 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Gary McAdams WG7X |
| Vice President: | Al Churchill AC7BU |
| Secretary | Larry Watson KD4VOM |
| Treasurer | Bob Purdom AD7LJ |
| Board Member | Frank Palmer AC7JY |
| Board Member | Si Nelsen KA7AQT |
| Board Member | Alan Lentz W7AML |
| Board Member | Nick Winter K7MO |
| Board Member | Crystal Quamme K7XK |

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 18 names on the attendance roster.*

**Minutes**:

**A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 7 September Board meeting as corrected and coordinated.**

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Gary Pankey WS7J became a Silent Key on 22 August 2011.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry KD4VOM**

**Correspondence:**

Membership Applications
Bank Statements
Salmon Run Pledge responses
Responded to DNR request for justification for continued site rental lease subsidy.

*A copy of the current correspondence log is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob AD7LJ

Bob presented the financial summary reports for the past two months.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Emergency Operations Committee:** Ken Gibson, N7ELF has agreed to chair the RCT Emergency Operations committee, and presented an overview of his recommendations on the club's emergency operations. The committee will meet over the next few months and provide a report to the board with their recommendations.

*A copy of N7ELF's initial recommendations is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Repeater Committee:** - The Crawford Mountain 147.38 repeater is reported to have distortion. Nick K7MO is planning to investigate and repair.

**Property Management**: -

**Frank AC7JY** Reports that the spare generator and motor have been sold.
The second generator and trailer remain up for sale.
**Frank AC7JY** also reported that a transceiver recently sold at a Saturday Swapmeet, and thought to be in operating condition has proven otherwise. Since the item was sold as in operating condition, Frank recommended we accept its retum and provide a working transceiver from our holdings.

***A motion was made, seconded and passed to exchange the non working transceiver for a working one.***

**Replacement Emergency Power Generators**:

Frank AC7JY proposes to move ahead on replacing our emergency power generators. There appears to be continuing ideas on the type of generator (diesel or gasoline) and possibly other considerations.
Nick K7MO volunteered to head a committee to resolve the remaining issues and present to the board by the January Board Meeting their recommendations on replacing our emergency power generators. **The President Gary – WG7X appointed Nick K7MO to head the committee.** Nick is to advise the Secretary of the committee members.
Larry KD4VOM has a spare generator which he will loan to the club until a new generator can be decided upon and acquired.

**Training:** Next Technician Class is October 8/9.

**Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM –

Reported the final Hamfest report has been distributed by E-mail to the Board members. The Treasurer is to transfer all but the $ 500.00 Hamfest startup cash to the Club's regular checking account.

**Club Flag Project**: **Mike W7XTZ**

Mike presented a proposal for manufacturing the flag. The proposals included both nylon an vinyl based double sided

3 foot by 5 foot flags. Mike displayed a similar flag which had been in use several years outside as an example of the durability of the proposed club flag.
***A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the 3x5 nylon based two sided flag at a cost of $ 250.00***
Crystal K7KXY has several proposed designs which she will forward to the board members for their consideration.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Backup Batteries:** Frank AC7JY reports that Bob K7MXE has removed the old backup batteries as authorized at the last Board meeting.

**Salmon Run: Al N7OMS**

Al has filed our Salmon Run logs for verification. There was a brief discussion on mugs earned by clubs. The result was, if a club's clean sweep is verified, a mug is awarded to the club. If winning club members desire a mug, they can be purchased individually.

**95th Anniversary Planning:**

The club will celebrate its 95th anniversary by an operating event at the clubhouse on Saturday and Sunday October 15th and 16th. A pot luck is planned Sunday.

**Ad Hoc Committee: HF-Museum - Lou Simmons room remodel and Clubhouse Expansion Proposal** – Gary WG7X

Gary reported that the Ad Hoc committee has completed their review of the two facility projects and makes the following recommendations:

The Al Ferguson -- N7OMS Simmons, HF, Library, Museum remodeling proposal is recommended for approval and implementation using the previously approved funding.

The Bob Heselberg -- K7MXE clubhouse expansion project, while it addresses needed additional space, unfortunately may have costly permitting, construction and compliance with city building codes which the club may not be able to accommodate or afford. Therefore this proposal is tabled.

***A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the N7OMS Simmons, HF, Library, and Museum remodeling with a funded budget of up to $ 1,500.00***

**Roy Area Communications Network RCT Repeater use: Larry KD4VOM**

Larry presented the Memorandum of Agreement between the Radio Club of Tacoma and the Roy Area Communications Network which contains the RCT Board requested hold harmless language.
Discussion: There was a positive response to this request to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the RACN's use of the RCT 147.38 repeater, but there was a concern that the memorandum includes language relieving the RCT in the event the repeater is down, moved, or unable to operate for any reason.

***A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the Radio Club of Tacoma --- Roy Area Communications Network for use of the Crawford Mountain 147.38 repeater Memorandum of Agreement.***

*A copy of the Roy Area Communications Network and Radio Club of Tacoma Crawford Mountain Repeater Memorandum of Agreement are attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Nominating Committee: Steve AD7VL**

Steve attended the meeting and solicited additional candidates are welcome and needed. Steve recommended that the retiring board members and officers help by soliciting qualified replacements.

**DNR Request for repeater information.** The DNR requested information has been provided by the Secretary Larry KD4VOM
Property Management lockup lock: Frank AC7JY asked about progress in replacing one

of the locks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RCT Information Technology Committee:** Al Ferguson N7OMS noted that the club's computer hardware and software is a mish mash of underpowered systems with problematic software. He recommended the formation of a club IT committee to review and make recommendations for upgrading our IT configuration. He has coordinated his proposal with Steve AD7AB, and enlisted the support of several capable members who are willing to serve. Al recommended Andrew Quamme K7ASQ, Randy Myers WB4SPB, and Don Hatlestad W7OG be assigned to the committee.

**President Gary WG7X appointed Crystal Quamme K7XK to Chair the Information Technology Committee.**

**Annual Dues Review:**

As required by the Bylaws, the Board reviewed the membership dues structure.

***A motion was made, seconded and passed to retain the current dues structure.***

Discussion: there were several who believed that we should consider an increase in the dues, partly because club expenses have increased in the several years since the last dues increase. There was also a suggestion that the age for eligibility of senior members might be changed. Others were concerned about the potential loss of membership which might result from a dues increase.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Scouting Technoree JOTA: Steve AD7VL** announced the upcoming Scouting Technical event which is being held the weekend of 15-16 October at the LeMay facility on 185th and Canyon Road. Steve will be setting up an HF and 2 meter station to promote amateur radio and invited all to visit and participate in this Public Service event. Steve asked for club brochures, banner and membership applications. Gary asked for the information for the BARK

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm

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**General Meeting**
**12 October 2011 MINUTES**

The 12 October 2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams
Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Bob Purdom – AC7LJ
Board: Alan Lentz – W7AML

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 48 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by President Gary WG7X

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Self introductions were completed and several visitors and guests were warmly welcomed .

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** No reports tonight

**Correspondence**: Larry KD4VOM reports the usual utility bills, and bank statements along with many Salmon Run Pledge responses.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Steve Blacksten AD7VL presented the Nominations Committee slate of candidates for this year's election cycle:**

**For Vice President: -- No candidate**

**For Secretary: -- Larry Watson KD4VOM**

**For Board Positions (3)**

**Glen Galati KA7BOJ**

**Paul Amschler – KA7WTK**

**Al Ferguson: N7OMS (Write-in)**

Nominations were opened from the floor:
There were no nominations from the floor
There being no further nominations, the Nominations were closed.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE**: President Gary WG7X appointed the Election Committee:

**Gary McAdams -- WG7X**

**Steve Blacksten – AD7VL**

**Charles Smith – KD7UAN**

**Ballots** must be returned postmarked before 5 November, or personally handed to the Secretary before the first meeting in November begins.

**VE REPORT: John Clarke AC7WW presented last Tuesday's VE Report**

Tuesday October 11th nine Volunteer Examiners were very busy grading 32 elements from 17 candidates. Eleven new Technicians and three Generals joined the ranks of the Amateur Service. Two candidates upgraded to General class. One candidate did not earn an initial license. A fourteen year old young lady obtained her Technician license at this session.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

| | |
|---|---|
| Harry, W7HSA | Linda, AB7YL |
| Steve, AD7VL | Rich, KK7VH |
| Jim, N7RHX | Joe, K7ZG |
| Stephen, AD7AB | Roddney, WV7O |

Earlier in the day Al K7HW, Joe K7ZG and I administrated an element 2 exam to a blind candidate at her home. She failed to obtain an initial license.

The next scheduled monthly testing session will be Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

**PROGRAM: Mike Mikuchonis WXTZ**

Tonight's program was a video presentation of Mike's team Salmon Run expedition to the San Juan Islands

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**95th Anniversary Operating Event: Peter AD7EU** reports that we will be using both W7DK and W7OS calls for this year's 90th anniversary event which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 15th and 16th. Peter needs operators for Saturday from 9 am to 9 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm; followed by the potluck.

**Radio Club of Tacoma Annual Awards Banquet Jim KE6WHN** announced that the annual club holiday potluck and awards ceremony will be held this year at the TACID (Tacoma Area Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities) on the afternoon of **Saturday, 3 December from 1pm to 3 pm**. There will be several gift prizes and the announcement of this year's Doc Spike Inspirational Award. Jim asks for contributions of a couple of hams or turkeys to supplement the potluck offerings. This is the time we take to honor those who have volunteered their time and talents over the past year to make the Radio Club of Tacoma a great organization. Contact Jim if you can donate a ham or turkey to this year's event. Jim can always use some help setting up and decorating as well.

**Doc Spike Inspirational Award: Alan Lentz W7AML** solicited recommendations from the membership for members that represent the spirit of the Doc Spike Award as one who has promoted the club and made outstanding contributions over the past year. Send your recommendations to Alan by November 7th .

**Salmon Run Al Ferguson N7OMS** reports the Salmon Run logs have been turned in to the WW DX Association. We missed all states by two and all Counties by 2 as well.

**Jamboree On The Air: Steve Blacksten AD7VL** and a few other members will be representing the club at a Scouting Technoree this coming Saturday at the LeMay Facility at:

18504 Canyon Rd
Frederickson, WA 98446
(253) 682-2217

Steve is looking for someone with a camera and pen to help document the event perhaps for QST or other publication to promote Amateur Radio, The Club, and Scouting.

**TUNING AND TRAFFIC:** Several reports were made of the bands opening up, 10 meters has been good as well as other bands. Several have contacted the Christmas Island group which has been very active on all bands T-32. They will be on the air for another week or two… W7OG reports an Oceana CW contest down under in New Zealand and Australia on 10 meters.

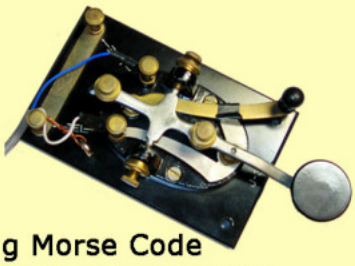
Looks like were beginning to see the solar curve create good conditions for HF again.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Bruce Allen N7MI picked up the door prize VSWR meter.
**RAFFLE PRIZE:** Jim KE7WHN (*For the second meeting in a row*) picked up the Raffle prize which was a nice "Amateur Radio" license Plate

A Special thanks to Miss Pat WT7N who provided an outstanding array of goodies for tonight's refreshment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Announcing... **MORSE CODE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS**



Start Date: Nov. 14, Monday
Time: 6-8 PM
Location: RCT Clubhouse
Length of Class: 10 Weeks or longer if needed

A few class highlights:
We will be using the G4FON Koch method of learing Morse Code
We will learn to send with a Straight Key, baring physical difficulties.
Each student will be assigned a "code buddy" for sending practice.
Expect to spend at least 1/2 hour every day to practice.

To sign up or get more info, do this:
Email Rich KR7W at webgeekXX@w7dk.org (remove XX from address)
or Call 253-274-eight six five seven and leave a message.

More info is at www.w7dk.org/cw

The whole enchalata of info and necessary items will be provided after upon registration.

Morse Code Class for Beginners

If you do not know Morse Code and would like to learn it to get on the air with it...

Or, if you learned Morse code to simply pass the Element 1 Test and never used it... and now want to get on the air with it...

Then this class might be for you.

Rich KR7W and Randy WB4SPB will be the facilitators.

Class begins on Monday, Nov 14, 6 to 8 PM for 10 Weeks (or longer if needed)

Class Location is the RCT Clubhouse in Tacoma.

See www.w7dk.org/cw for more info.

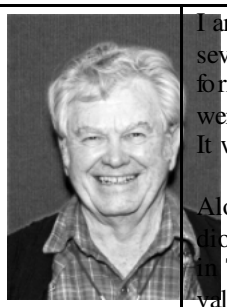
Here's a rare occasion: an actual picture (!) of Rich KR7W posing at the 2011 RCT Hamfest's Museum Display. Normally this station is on the air on 20 Meter CW, but some technical difficulties with the antenna made it incommunicado with other hams out there in Radio Land. Many folks stopped by to ask questions about the equipment, especially the old Crystal Set from 1916 (lower left on the table). Also, a lot of hams reflected of wanting to own a Drake 2B receiver with Q multiplier (unseen behind KR7W's head) when they were beginners in Ham Radio in the mid 60s. Randy WB4SBP had hidden one of his "Morse Code Bunnies" under the table and there was the sounds of Morse in the background to add a special effect to the display. Photo by Frank AC7JY. Dah dit dit dit dah.

…And on another note.. We have a small pix of Gary WG7X operating the W7IJ super station during last month's CQWW contest. Bill (W7IJ) has made an incredible station out in the woods around Roy, WA. It was a great pleasure to operate and I really have to thank Bill for the privilege of working the station for the contest.

## Candidate's Statements
## Radio Club of Tacoma 2011 Election

**Office of Vice President. No candidate Nominated.**

**Office of Secretary. One candidate is running. Statement follows:**



**Larry Watson KD4VOM**

I am a candidate for a second term as Secretary of the Radio Club of Tacoma. For the past several years, I have been involved with multiple projects in the Club. In addition to performing the Secretary's normal duties I assumed leadership of the Club's Planning team who were the core group that planned and delivered the Club's celebration of its 90th Anniversary. It was in this process that I discovered the rich and deep history of the Club.

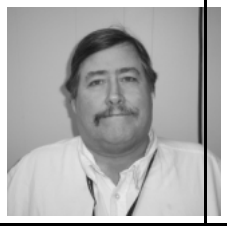
Along with a handful of others, I am dedicated to preserving and telling the story of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Our predecessors for over ninety years started and kept amateur radio in Tacoma alive, secured a physical home to support our many activities and provided many valuable services to the community and to the Amateur Radio Service.

I see one of the principal responsibilities of the elected officers of the club to maintain, preserve and continue to improve the capabilities we inherited from our predecessors.
Few clubs anywhere enjoy their own facility, an extensive technical library, a first class amateur radio museum, and of course a permanent club HF station.

I believe the officers of the club have a moral and ethical responsibility to the club and its members to manage the club and maintain its property with loyalty to its historical goals and purposes and in compliance with the law. Every decision must pass the test of "Is this in the best interests of the Club and its Membership?"

**Office of Board Member. 3 Positions are open.** ***Please indicate your selection on the BALLOT.***

**Office of Board Member. 3 positions are open. 3 candidates are running. Please vote for 3.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Glen Galati** | No Statement received |
| **Paul Amschler KE7WTK**  | No Statement received |

**Write In Board**

**Al Ferguson N7OMS**: Running as a Write in candidate

Hello my name is Alan Ferguson N7OMS and I am running for the RCT board as a write in candidate.

Been a ham for over twenty years and a Amateur Extra since 2005. Have worked in telecom for over thirty seven years and am still at it. Married to Sue KF7BAF and my dad was K7UNL. I am an active CW operator and like to do some SSB contests. Have used some of the digital modes and hope to do more. Really like to Fox Hunt and will continue to get out and strengthen my Hunting skills. I have a modest station at home so really enjoy using the tower mounted beam and Drake amplifier at the club house.

Been a club member at least fifteen years and very active the last five years. Some of the projects I have worked on included the kitchen, library, and museum remodels. The first tube inventory of over 4,000 tubes, wiring the club for Ethernet access in all major rooms, new alarm system, and the inventory of the Jerry Seligman and RCT manual collection. I'm most proud of founding the RCT Salmon Run Fund Raiser. In 2009 I won the "Git R Done" award and in 2007 received the "Doc Spike" award.

I believe the future of the club depends on providing present and future members opportunities to create "Ham Radio Memories". Chances to use older tube gear, newer state of the art gear, digital modes like RTTY or JT65. Classes to get your license or upgrade. Contesting so you can learn to get the most out of your radio's. Building Antenna's and station accessories so you learn by doing. Fox hunting and other skills that will enhance our ability to help in emergency communications. Some of these activates the club is already doing but others are only dreams. Elect me and I will do my best to make some of those dreams come true.

W7DK 95th Anniversary Event

The Radio Club of Tacoma was founded October 16, 1916 by a few young wireless enthusiasts/experimenters out of Stadium High School. It has endured now for 95 years, through war and peace, in good times and bad. The club kept meeting, even when they couldn't operate, and has evolved to become the club we all enjoy today.

To celebrate this ocaasion, we held an operating event over the weekend of October 15th and 16th, 2011. We operated 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday, and made 349 contacts, mostly on Sunday. At 4:00 pm Sunday we broke up to celebrate the club's 95th with a potluck and cake. We had a good turnout for that party, at which Larry KD4VOM sdreened the video that had been produced for the 90th back in 2006.

Thanks go to the operators and to everyone who helped in myriad ways, from setup to technical advice to providing access to the clubhouse.

Logs for the event tell an interesting story. Saturday was slow, due in part to several competing events such as JOTA and the NY QSO Party. Still, our first contact was another event station, K7P in Homer, Alaska for Alaska Maritime Wildlife Rescue. We also got a fair bit of DX, aided by a contest in South America and good sunspot activity.

Sunday's ops turned up the heat, and the amplifier got reports of "20 over" all across the midwest and Eastern U.S., or as one put it "...strong as a garlic milkshake."

It was a fun event, and we should build up to a huge blowout for our 100th anniversary in 5 years.
Who's in?

**Dateline: September 2011**

## *Sparky's* "View from the Shack"

### *This and that around the club, and more.*

***Sparky's*** *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*


- *Legacy photo*
- *Around the Club*
- *ARRL and such*
- *Attaboys*
- *View from the Shack*


## Legacy Photo

Here's the young lads that began the Radio Club of Tacoma in October of 1916

## Around the Club...

**Salmon Run** . Another Salmon Run QSO party and pledge drive are now history. Despite our best efforts, the intrepid operating crew just couldn't get the last two counties for a "clean sweep". You may know that the Radio Club of Tacoma has sponsored a "Clean Sweep" mug for any club or individual that achieves that goal. We'll know for sure when the WW DX club completes its checking of this year's logs, but it appears there may have been two Clean Sweeps.

The Salmon Run Pledge drive is one of our Club's important fund raisers and we have received many responses. If you haven't yet sent in your pledge or payment, please do. The cost of operating the club, like everything else, is increasing every year. Beyond that the club has promoted steady improvements to the clubhouse and operations. In the coming months expect to see a lot of sawdust as the little achievers and acme labs begin the process of remodeling the Simmons (that's the downstairs room where the repeaters are), and the HF room to craft four new operating stations along with some improvements in floor coverings and lighting.

A newly appointed Information Technology committee will tackle the mish mash of computer and internet systems we now have with an eye to bringing us up to some more modern hardware and software to support our administrative, library, HF operations and club member services.

Some of you may know the club has also set about upgrading its Emergency Operations. Ken Gibson N7ELF has agreed to chair a committee to make recommendations to the Board on the Club's role in Emergency Operations. Parallel to that Nick Winter K7MO is chairing a committee to make recommendations on upgrading our emergency power.

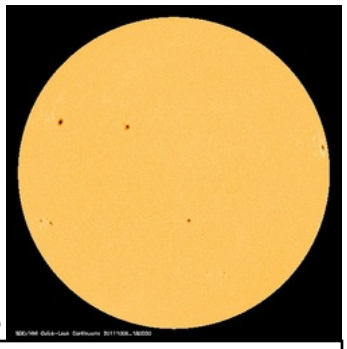
Peter Baker AD7EU is chairing the 95th Anniversary Operating event and potluck the weekend of October 15-16.

Finally, as in every year, the October—November months bring our annual Nomination and Election process. Steve Blacksten AD7VL is chairing the Nominating committee and their slate will be presented at the first October General Membership meeting.

# ARRL...and such...

## SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "I wish the Sun would hide its head" Cook, K7RA, reports: The sunspot excitement continues, with photos of the Sun showing more and more spots. The average daily sunspot numbers for the week were about the same as the previous week, increasing from 96.1 to 96.7, while the average daily solar flux dropped from 155.5 to 132.6. Our three month moving average of sunspot numbers puts us into activity levels last seen in mid-2004. The latest NOAA/USAF forecast shows solar flux at 125 on October 6-7, 130 on October 8-12, 125 on October 13 and 110 on October 14-16. The planetary A index prediction shows 18 for October 6, 10 on October 7-8, 8 on October 9 and 5 on October 10-27. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, October 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Yellowcard's October Nights.



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, October 6, 2011 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum

## CONVERSATION

***From Ward Silver's Contest Journal...***

### Elmer Tried

It's the start of the northern hemisphere's season of major contests and that occasionally leads some of our more competitive peers to leave the straight and narrow. Doctor Beldar decided a song was in order and here is his degradation of Merle Haggard's famous, "Mama Tried".

73, Ward NØAX

The first thing I remember knowing,
Was the filaments a-glowing,
And a Novice dream of Yagis way up high.
Seeking plaques of walnut brown,
In my ham shack hunkered down,
No-one could change my mind but Elmer tried.

Once a contest wonder child,
From a ham club, meek and mild:
My Elmer seemed to know what lay in store.
Despite all my license learning,
Towards DQ, I kept on turning.
'Til Elmer couldn't hold me anymore.

And I turned twenty-one unlicensed, ticket down the toilet bowl.
No-one could steer me right but Elmer tried, Elmer tried.
Elmer tried to show me better, but his teaching, I denied.
That leaves only me to blame 'cause Elmer tried.

That old Heathkit, rest its soul,
Couldn't take the contest load;
So I replaced it with some three-hole shoes.

Logging spots with calls I guessed
Rubber-clocking all the rest
Elmer tried to raise me right but I refused.

And I turned twenty-one unlicensed, ticket down the toilet bowl.
No-one could steer me right but Elmer tried, Elmer tried.
Elmer tried to show me better, but his teaching, I denied.
That leaves only me to blame 'cause Elmer tried.

**73, Ward NØAX**

## TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

***From Ward Silver's Contest Journal...***

The best gorilla hooks Dave AB7E knows about "are extremely strong (check the specs) and very light weight (only one pound each). I use three of them ... two on the end of climbing straps so that I am never disconnected from the tower while climbing, and a third one on my belt so that I can cinch myself up close to the tower while working." Dave particularly likes them because, "The throat opening is large enough to get around the cross braces on my AN Wireless heavy duty tower, and also around the 2-inch diameter mast when I get to the top of the tower."

Dick N4ARO wasn't expecting a literal "tip of the cap" from the AB4KE group as he pursued his 5BWAS during Field Day! (Photo by N4ARO)

A better and less expensive choice than carbon composition resistor for most applications that require high peak surge capacity and low inductance is the Ohmite "OY" series of ceramic composition resistors. These can be used as antenna or transmission line terminations or static discharge resistors. (Thanks, Paul, W9AC)

Tony K1KP recommends a delta loop as a low-band antenna with vertical polarization but that does not need a good ground. "An equilateral triangle, apex up, fed ¼-wavelength from the top, will give vertical polarization. The bottom leg of the delta loop can be only a few feet off the ground and it provides the 'ground return' for the antenna. The impedance of a single loop is around 100 ohms and can be matched with an electrical quarter wave of 75-ohm coax."

Here's a topic that I know we all wrestle with from time to time - wires. More accurately, the large number of wires involved with "wireless" and their management. This problem has been multiplied by the addition of computers to the station, so listen in as the Slashdot crowd discusses the problem from the network point-of-view.

Ramsey Kits has updated their venerable 555 timer kits - these are useful for all sorts of timing jobs

connections which is more convenient than having to solder directly to the board. There are both through-hole and SMT versions.
Nuts and Volts sells a kit for a small bench-type supply that supplies +5 V and +/-12 V. This supply is a very useful item for testing and breadboarding analog and digital circuits.
When your radial field is limited to short distances from the base of the antenna, a roll of mesh is equivalent to a large number of individual radials - with the further advantage that you can roll them all up at once. You can read NCØB's *Ham Radio* article in which he compared several different lay-outs for a given amount of mesh. (Thanks, Ian GM3SEK)
Here's a link to a Microsoft blog that announces release of a new app that allows a single mouse to be used with multiple Windows computers. Pat W5VY thinks this may have potential for use in SO2R (Single-Op, Two Radio) stations.
Hams have club houses, the do-it-yourselfers have "hacker spaces". This should all look very familiar and attractive to hams. There is probably a hacker space near you if you live in a suburban or metropolitan area, such as LVL1 in Louisville, KY. (Thanks, George K5KG)
**Technical Web Site of the Week** - Tektronix veteran, Don W7WLL recommends the YouTube videos by W2AEW as really good tutorials on using an oscilloscope for ham radio measurements. He also has an excellent video at the same site titled "Scopes For Dopes" - it is an excellent tutorial for those who are daunted by the oscilloscope.

## Attaboys:

Here's a well done to Stephen Morton AD7AB who headed up the Club's annual W7DK at the Fair operation. Getting folks to fill 20 + three shift days isn't easy, nor is getting all the gear and promotional information ready and setting up an attractive and functional booth takes time and creativity. Sparky sez thanks again Steve and your crew.

Al Ferguson N7OMS is the godfather of our Salmon Run activities and once again he led the charge to get the operating team working together to search for the elusive "Clean Sweep"...His efforts have also generated needed funds through the Salmon Run Pledge Drive...Well Done!

## View from the Shack.

Time to start thinking of the Christmas Banquet and Awards which is coming up in December.

It's that time of year when we look back and recognize the folks who make the Radio Club of Tacoma a great organization. The Doc Spike winner will be announced, along with recognition for many many many jobs well done over the past year.

If you have someone you think deserves recognition please send along a note or e-mail to our President Gary McAdams just click on the www.w7dk.org and send your message.

*Sparky* ***"The gene pool could use a little more chlorine"***

*The Disclaimer...*
*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.*

## W7T SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR (JOTA)

Last month, Steve AD7VL Rich KR7W and Chuck AC7QN went to the field to put on an on the air event with the BSA and a special call W7T. On this page are pictures from that event provided by Steve, AD7VL.

A couple of view of the home-brew vertical Steve made for the event. Above, A couple of the boys try to stay warm and dry…

Upper left: Chuck AC7QN show a couple of the scouts how to direction-find using a tape measure antenna, HT and attenuator box.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

# Logger's Bark

***The Logger's Bark*** **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

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## Radio Club Repeaters

*Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970*
*Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5*
*Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5*

***The Loggers Bark***
**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**
**PO Box 11188**
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**

# Fall 2011 Events

**CLUB MEETINGS**: Second and fourth Wednesdays at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** First Wednesday at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline**: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club**: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .